

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A bristle arrangement for subsequent use in a brush seal, the bristle arrangement consisting essentially of:

a plurality of bristles arranged in a length; and

a joint securing said plurality of bristles together;

wherein said joint extends along said length.

2. (original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said joint is a weld joint.

3. (original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said bristles each have opposed ends, and said joint is located at one of said opposed ends.

4. (original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of bristles are metallic.

5. (original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the bristle arrangement is subsequently combined with plates to form a brush seal.

6. (original) The bristle arrangement as recited in claim 5, wherein a plurality of the bristle arrangements are subsequently

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